NOTE XLVIII.

ON AEGUS CAPITATUS, WESTW.

BY

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Among the Lucanidae brought together in Deli (East-Sumatra) by Dr. B. Hagen and presented by him to the Leyden Museum, I found a male specimen of minor development, belonging to the genus *Aegus*, which was at first sight unknown to me. A careful examination, however, convinced me of its close relationship with *Aegus capitatus* Westw., a species represented in Dr. Hagen's collection by a few males and females, but I could not decide whether it was the extreme varietas minor of this species or that of a new one. I wrote therefore to Mr. Neervoort van de Poll asking him to look at the matter, and most courteously he sent me from his extensive collections all connecting links between my specimen and the varietas major of *Aegus capitatus*.

Taking into consideration that among the described forms of the male of this species the smallest form (that what I regard as the true var. minor) is not to be found, I thought it not without interest to publish a detailed description of it. With the higher developed forms it has some important characteristics in common, viz.: the shape of the inner edge of the mandibles with the conical basal tooth on a level below that of the surface; the shape of the fore margin of the head between the mandibles (broadly and angularly emarginate, the emargination terminating in a produced point at each end); the shape of the hinder an-

gles of the thorax (subangular, not emarginate); the conformation of the lateral margin of the second and following abdominal segments (thickened and glossy, widened out on the last segment where this margin is notched at the apex).

Before to proceed to the description of the var. minor, I ought to say that the males which have a spine or tubercle on each side of the head between the eye and the produced point of the fore margin, are regarded by me as the var. major., those without these spines or tubercles but with the mentum and jugulum opaque as the var. med., and that the form which I believe to be the var. minor may be characterized by its small size, by the total or nearly total absence of the tooth which proceeds from the upper surface of the mandibles a little before the base, by the shining (not opaque) and deeply punctured mentum and jugulum, and by the subcostate elytra. The three different forms may at once be recognized by the following key:

I. Mentum and jugulum opaque, impunctate or provided with shallow, margined punctures.
   a. Head with a spine or tubercle between the eyes and the produced points of the fore margin. . . . . var. major.
   b. Head without spines or tubercles. . var. med.

II. Mentum and jugulum shining, provided with deeply impressed punctures. . . . . var. minor.

Aegus capitatus Westw. ♂, var. minor.

I have taken the following description from four specimens: one, the smallest, measuring with mandibles 21.5 mm. [1]), belonging to the Leyden Museum and originating from Serdang (East-Sumatra); the three others, measuring with mandibles 22.5, 23.5 and 24.5 mm., belonging to

1) The largest male with which I am acquainted (likewise from Serdang) measures with mandibles 47 mm.

the collection of Mr. Neervoort van de Poll and coming from Malacca.

Black above, dark reddish brown beneath; subshining. The mandibles glossy, covered with punctures which become finer and finer towards the tip and on the inner basal portion (basal tooth); they are as long as or slightly longer than the head, strongly and regularly curved, and provided internally, a little before the base and on a level below that of the surface of the mandible, with a conical tooth. Moreover in the two largest of my specimens a trace of the tooth is present which proceeds from the upper surface at some distance from the base.

The head is densely covered with large punctures which bear short erect fulvous hairs and are partially confluent especially towards the fore margin and the eyes. The fore margin between the mandibles broadly and angularly emarginate, the emargination terminating in a produced point at each end. The anterior lateral angles are rounded off, the ocular canthus is entire, and the sides are convex and slightly sinuate. From the anterior lateral angles a curved smoother carina runs to the inner orbit.

The prothorax somewhat broader than the head and with parallel sides, or (as in my smallest specimen) in front as wide as the head but somewhat broader at the base; it is densely and rather equally covered with large and deep punctures which are confluent along the margins and bear erect short fulvous hairs; the middle of the disc is shallowly impressed and provided with some larger and partially confluent punctures; the anterior angles are prominent and more or less narrowly rounded off, the posterior ones subangular, not emarginate. The scutellum has a few large punctures.

Each elytron shows four deeply impressed striae of confluent punctures, forming in connection with the suture five glossy interstices which are alternately more elevated and four of which disappear before the end; the interstices are sparsely provided with very fine punctures, the 2nd

and 4th moreover coarsely punctured at the basal portion; beyond the 5th interstice as well as at the end the elytra are rugose in consequence of a very dense and confluent sculpture, with the exception of two narrow costae originating from the shoulder (the inner one much more distinct) and the apex of the sutural interstice which are smoother; the shoulders are pointed, the outer margin of the elytra minutely crenulate, and the striae and rugose portion provided with short erect fulvous hairs.

The under surface and legs sparsely covered with short erect fulvous hairs; the jugulum and mentum shining and covered with large and deep punctures which are wider apart on the jugulum; on the basal portion of the latter a narrow but deep transverse furrow occurs in the smallest specimen (that from Serdang). The lateral portions of the head are very shining and show a few large punctures; the base is finely rugose as well as the middle of the prosternum, the sides of which are, however, very shining, nearly impunctate; the centre of the metasternum is finely and distantly punctate, the rest shows a somewhat reticulate sculpture; the epipleural fold of the elytra has an indistinct reticulate sculpture. The abdomen is rather strongly and equally punctured; the lateral margins of the 2nd and following segments are thickened and glossy, widened out on the last segment where this margin is notched at the apex. The anterior tibiae are serrated along the outer margin, the intermediate and posterior ones armed with two spines, one about the middle, the other (the smaller one) between the middle and the base.

Aegus capitatus Westw. is as yet recorded as inhabiting Malacca, Prince of Wales' Island, Sumatra, Banca and Borneo, whereas the allied *Aegus labilis* Westw. (? *parallelus* Hope), a species known to me by description and figure only, originates from Darjeeling.